



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development
Office of the State Director Florida/USVI
P.O. Box 147010, Gainesville, FL 32614 . Email: ellen.boukari@fl.usda.gov
Web: www.rurdev.usda.gov/fl/

Contact Ellen Boukari (352) 338-3414

BRISTOL RECEIVES \$3,100,000 FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND COLLECTION SYSTEM PHASE 2

BRISTOL, FL, October 20, 2004 — The Panhandle community of Bristol, Florida is one step closer to eliminating its dependence on individual septic tanks. The City of Bristol received \$3,100,000 in combined loan and grant funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development to begin Phase II of the city's wastewater treatment and collection system. Located in Liberty County, the City of Bristol has just recently come online with Phase I of a wastewater treatment plant and collection system serving the area south of State Road 20, funded with \$4,022,000 from USDA Rural Development.

Phase I of the project included the construction of a 250,000 gallon-per-day wastewater treatment plant utilizing coarse screening through a bar screen, treatment by sequencing batch reactor, chlorination and effluent disposal through land application. Phase I also included installation of approximately 34,000 linear feet of gravity sewer, 139 sanitary manholes, and 48,000 linear feet of low pressure forcemain. Phase II funding will establish a collection system for residents and businesses north of State Road 20. Rural Development assistance for both phases of the project totals \$7,122,000 in combined loan and grant funding.

Prior to the centralized wastewater collection and treatment system, most sewage within the City of Bristol was treated by individual septic tanks. Some 163 septic tanks failed annually, exposing residents to untreated wastewater. Bristol borders the banks of the Apalachicola River, which has been designated by the State of Florida as an "outstanding Florida Waterway." Completion of Phase II of the wastewater collection and treatment system will eliminate a potential source of pollution to the Apalachicola River. The expanded wastewater collection system includes 38,100LF of 8-inch gravity sewer; 150 manholes; 10,000 LF of 4-inch and 35,000 LF of 6-inch forcemain, as well as three large and five small lift stations; and 25,000 LF of roadway repair.

"Investing in basic community infrastructure supports President Bush's vision for a strong and vibrant America," said Rural Development State Director Charles W. Clemons, Sr. "Our rural communities, such as the City of Bristol, are the heart and soul of our country. The importance of the health and safety of our residents, the viability of our environment, and the sustainability of our rural communities is imperative for America to remain strong."

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/fl>

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